

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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SUBJECT: AFL-CIO REPRESENTATIVE IRVING BROWN VISITS OSLO

REFS: OSLO 0967

SUMMARY: AFL-CIO EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE IRVING BROWN HELD USEFUL VISIT TO OSLO MARCH 19-21 WHERE HE EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH KEY NORWEGIAN TRADE UNION AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. BROWN ENCOURAGED NORWEGIANS IN FOSTERING CLOSER AFL-CIO AND NORWEGIAN LABOR ORGANIZATION CONTACTS AND URGED THEM TO PUT MORE IMPORTANCE ON OECD AS VALUABLE FORUM FOR US-EUROPEAN TRADE UNION COOPERATION. END SUMMARY

1. AFL-CIO EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE IRVING BROWN
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CONCLUDED USEFUL VISIT OSLO MARCH 19-21 DURING WHICH

HE MET WITH KEY NORWEGIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO) AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI AND DEFENSE MINISTER FOSTERVOLL.

2. LO OFFICIALS INVITED BROWN TO OSLO IN LIGHT OF HIS ALLEGED CRITICISM OF THE WAY THEY WERE APPROACHING RECENT GENEVA EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONTACT DISCUSSIONS (REFTTEL) AND LO'S DESIRE TO FOSTER LO CONTACTS WITH AFL-CIO.

3. LO OFFICIALS AND BROWN HAD LIVELY AND FRIENDLY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH LO PRESIDENT ASPENGREN OUTLINING HIS INTEREST IN GREATER CONTACTS WITH AFL-CIO AND LO, AND VIVE PRESIDENT ODD HOJDAHL POINTING OUT NORWEGIAN VIEWS ON THE VALUE OF AND APPROACH TO EAST-WEST CONTACTS, EMPHASIZING THE LO'S LOYALTY TO THE WEST AND NATO ALLIANCE. BROWN AGREED WITH ENHANCING AFL-CIO AND LO CONTACTS. HE VIGOROUSLY DEFENDED AFL-CIO POLICY ON TRADE UNION EXCHANGES WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND OUTLINED WIDE-RANGE OF ACTIVITIES HIS UNION WAS UNDERTAKING ABROAD. IN MEETING WITH BROWN, PRIME MINISTER STRESSED NEED FOR MORE US LEADERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES.

4. AS TO FURTHER LO CONTACTS WITH AFL-CIO BROWN SAID HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY WITHIN A WEEK. HE SUGGESTED FIRING UP PLANS FOR MAY VISIT TO NORWAY OF A HIGH LEVEL AFL-CIO DELEGATION. HE ENCOURAGED NORWEGIANS TO CONCENTRATE THEIR PLANNED TRIP THIS FALL TO US ON WASHINGTON STOP TO MEET WITH APPROPRIATE AFL-CIO LEADERS RATHER THAN FOCUS ON AFL-CIO CONVENTION IN SAN FRANCISCO WHERE THEY WOULD PROBABLY NOT GET ADQUATE PERSONAL ATTENTION. HE POINTED TO IMPORTANCE OF OECD TUAC AS USEFUL ARENA FOR US-EUROPEAN TRADE UNION COOPERATION. BUCHANAN

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